

REMARKS

The applicants appreciate the Examiner's thorough examination of the application and requests reexamination and reconsideration of the application in view of the preceding amendments and the following remarks.

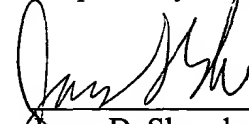
The applicant acknowledges and appreciates Examiner's statement that claims 9 and 10 are allowed. The Examiner also indicates that claim 2 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. The applicant has amended claim 1 to incorporate the features of claim 2 and has cancelled claim 2. Accordingly, amended claim 1 and dependent claim 3 are also in condition for allowance.

The Examiner rejects claims 1 and 3 under 35 USC § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,459,481 to *Schaack*. However, this rejection has been mooted by the applicant's amendment to claim 1.

Each of the Examiner's rejections has been addressed or traversed. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. Early and favorable action is respectfully requested.

If for any reason this Response is found to be incomplete, or if at any time it appears that a telephone conference with counsel would help advance prosecution, please telephone the undersigned or his associates, collect in Waltham, Massachusetts, (781)890-5678.

Respectfully submitted,



Jason D. Shanske
Reg. No. 43,915